

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending.

Response to Claim Rejections Under § 103

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scholl et al (US 5,663,226, cited on IDS dated 12/3/2004). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As demonstrated by the attached Rule 132 Declaration, the composition of present invention exhibits unexpectedly superior results as compared to the composition of Scholl. More particularly, Example 2 of the present invention has a much lower Mooney viscosity, a much longer Mooney scorch time, a much higher elongation and tensile strength at break and better abrasion resistance than Examples 1, 4 and 5 of Scholl. Further, Example 2 demonstrates maintained resilience, thereby exhibiting better processability of the unvulcanized rubber compositions of the present invention and excellent abrasion resistance in the tread member of a tire. *See*, Table A.

In addition, Examples 5, 6 and 7 of the present invention have a much lower Mooney viscosity, a much longer Mooney scorch time, much higher elongation and tensile strength at break and better abrasion resistance than Examples 2, 6 and 7 of Scholl. Further, Example 2 demonstrates maintained resilience, thereby exhibiting better processability of the unvulcanized rubber compositions of the present invention and excellent abrasion resistance in the tread member of a tire. *See*, Table B.

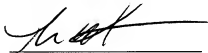
Thus, Scholl fails to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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